

MINUTES
City Council Meeting
Monday, December 1, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Mayor Holder welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Opening: Councilmember Campbell offered the opening prayer and Mayor Holder invited everyone to join in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call: Mayor Holder presided. **Council Members:** Don Bethune, Bruce Campbell, Rosetta Cody, Marcia Daniel, Scott George and Kim Tice.

Staff: Ron Feldner, City Manager; Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; David Lyons, Chief of Police; Pam Franklin, HR Director; Ben Brengman, IT Director; Ron Alexander, Building Safety Director; Cliff Ducey, Parks & Recreation Director, Charles Draeger, Water Operations Director; Benny Googe, Public Works Director and Sara Berry, Public Works Administrative Assistant.

Mayor Holder said City Council held a pre-agenda session prior to tonight's meet. He said no decisions were made during the pre-agenda session.

Retirement Presentation: Chief Lyons presented a plaque, proclamation, and resolution to James Crosby, Jr., who will retire from the City of Garden City Fire Department after forty-eight years of dedicated public service to Garden City.

Mayor and City Council Members thanked Mr. Crosby for his unwavering commitment to the City.

Informal Public Comment: Mayor Holder opened the floor to receive public comment from the audience.

Ms. Sharon Bethune, Woodlawn Avenue, said I represent the Garden City Housing Team and would like to remind everyone of the Tour of Homes this Sunday, December 7th. She said the tour will kickoff at the Garden City First Baptist Church. She said we also have a bus if you do not wish to drive.

There being no further questions or comments from the audience Mayor Holder closed the informal public comment portion of the meeting.

Public Hearing:

Occupational Tax Ordinance Amendment: Mayor Holder opened the public hearing to receive public comment on an ordinance to amend Chapter 22, Article II, of the Code of Ordinances of Garden City, Georgia, as amended, entitled "Occupational Taxes and Regulatory Fees" by changing the occupational schedule to increase the administrative fee from \$72.50 to \$75.00, to increase the number of tax classes from three to six, and to reduce the tax cap; and to provide an effective date.

Mayor Holder asked if there was anyone who wished to speak for or against the amendment to the occupational tax ordinance.

There being no questions or comments, Mayor Holder closed the public hearing.

City Council Minutes: Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to approve the city council minutes dated 11/17/14.

Staff Reports: Mayor Holder said we have no staff reports on tonight's agenda. He said staff will give their year-end reports at the January 20, 2015 council meeting.

Items for Consideration:

First Reading, Amendment to Occupational Taxes & Regulatory Fees Ordinance: Mayor Holder read for the first reading an ordinance to amend Chapter 22, Article II, of the Code of Ordinances of Garden City, Georgia, as amended, entitled "Occupational Taxes and Regulatory Fees" by changing the occupational schedule to increase the administrative fee from \$72.50 to \$75.00, to increase the number of tax classes from three to six, and to reduce the tax cap from \$20,000 to \$5,000; and to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Daniel, City Council voted unanimously to approve the amendment to the occupational taxes and regulatory fees ordinance on the first reading.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Daniel, City Council voted unanimously to suspend the rules of council to hold the second reading of the ordinance.

Second Reading, Amendment to Occupational Taxes & Regulatory Fees Ordinance: Mayor Holder read for the second reading an ordinance to amend Chapter 22, Article II, of the Code of Ordinances of Garden City, Georgia, as amended, entitled "Occupational Taxes and Regulatory Fees" by changing the occupational schedule to increase the administrative fee from \$72.50 to \$75.00, to increase the number of tax classes from three to six, and to reduce the tax cap from \$20,000 to \$5,000; and to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

Upon motion by Councilmember Daniel, seconded by Councilmember Bethune, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the amendment to the occupational taxes and regulatory fees ordinance on the second reading.

FY2015 Fee Schedule – Mayor Holder said we for consideration revisions to the City's Fee Schedule related to Utility Fees for fiscal year 2015 (FY2015).

Upon motion by Councilmember Daniel, seconded by Councilmember Bethune, City Council voted unanimously to approve the revisions to the city's fee schedule related to utility fees for fiscal year 2015.

Resolution, FY2015 Budget Adoption - Mayor Holder read a resolution to adopt the FY2015 Operating and Capital Budgets; to provide appropriation of funds for operating and capital expenditures; and to appropriate funding for specific operating and capital funds of Garden City Government.

Upon motion by Councilmember Daniel, seconded by Councilmember George, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the city's operating and capital budget for fiscal year 2015.

Resolution, Amendment to City Council Meeting Schedule & City's Operation Schedule: Mayor Holder read a resolution to amend the regular meeting schedule of the City Council and the City's normal hours of operation schedule in observance of the Christmas and New Year's Holidays; to eliminate the December 15, 2014, regular meeting of City Council; to close City Hall on December 26, 2014; to eliminate the January 5, 2015, regular meeting of City Council; to eliminate the January 19, 2015 regular meeting of City Council in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day; and to establish a meeting of City Council on Tuesday, January 20, 2015.

Upon motion by Councilmember Tice, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution amending the city council meeting schedule and the city's normal hours of operation schedule for the period of December 15, 2014 – January 20, 2015.

Mayor Holder reminded everyone of the City's Tree Lighting Ceremony and the Christmas in the Park festivities on Saturday, December 6, 2014.

Councilmember Bethune said we need to review the rollout cart holiday schedule, because it doesn't seem to address the holidays. He said I notice there were people putting their carts out on the wrong days over the Thanksgiving holidays. He said we need to get a notification out to the residents for the holiday collection schedule for the rollout carts.

Mayor Holder said I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas since this is our last council meeting for the year.

Adjournment: Upon motion by Mayor Holder, seconded by Councilmember Bethune, City Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:26 p.m.

*Transcribed by Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council
Accepted by City Council: 1/20/15*